

19. A computer program according to claim 17, further comprising instructions effective to program a PC card with an identifier corresponding to an audio signal indicative of a waiting call.
20. A database comprising a plurality of signal identifiers, each signal identifier being characteristic of a call waiting signal generated by a public switched telephone network (PSTN) exchange and enabling a match to be made between said identifier and an incoming telephony signal to a computer connected to said exchange.
21. A method of alerting a user of a computer to a waiting call available from a telephony connection to which the computer is connected, said method comprising the steps of:
- 10 a) monitoring a telephony input signal to the computer during a data transfer between the computer and a telephony connection;
- b) detecting a signal indicative of a waiting call available from said telephony connection; and
- c) upon detection of a signal indicative of a waiting call, generating an alert to a user via an output device of the computer.
- 15 22. A method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of providing a user of the computer with an option to terminate or place on hold said existing data session.
23. A telecommunications system comprising a connection to a telephony network, a computer system connected to said connection and a telephony terminal connected to said connection, wherein the computer system comprises:
- 20 a) a port for said telephony connection;
- b) a processor;
- c) a telecommunications manager for managing the transfer of data between the processor and the port;
- 25 d) a user interface connected to the processor comprising at least an output device capable of issuing an alert to a user;

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- 5               e) a tone detector connected to the port, said tone detector comprising an input for receiving a signal from the telephony connection and a discriminator for identifying a signal indicative of a waiting call; and
- 5               f) an alert generator connected to the tone detector and configured to alert a user of the computer via said interface that a call waiting signal has been detected;
- whereby upon said alert being generated, the waiting call can be taken at said telephony terminal.
- 10              24. A telecommunications network comprising a plurality of interconnected exchanges, at least one of said exchanges including a call waiting signal generator for generating a call waiting signal when a call is placed to an endpoint at which an existing call is in progress, and an endpoint connected to said one of said exchanges, said endpoint comprising a computer system connected to said exchange and a telephony terminal connected to said exchange, wherein the computer system comprises:
- 15              a) a port for connection to the exchange;
- 15              b) a processor;
- 15              c) a telecommunications manager for managing the transfer of data between the processor and the port;
- 15              d) a user interface connected to the processor comprising at least an output device capable of issuing an alert to a user;
- 20              e) a tone detector connected to the port, said tone detector comprising an input for receiving a signal from the telephony connection and a discriminator for identifying a signal indicative of a waiting call; and
- 20              f) an alert generator connected to the tone detector and configured to alert a user of the computer via said interface that a call waiting signal has been detected;
- 25              whereby upon said alert being generated, the waiting call can be taken at said telephony terminal.

25. A telecommunications network according to claim 26, wherein said computer further comprises a call control signal generator for outputting a call control signal to said exchange, and wherein said exchange further includes a call manager responsive to said call control signal to control the handling of said waiting call and/or said data session.